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## DHEC Health Update

Distributed via the South Carolina Health Alert Network  
February 6, 2009, 11:50am

### **Update on Current Influenza Activity, South Carolina**

#### **Current South Carolina Influenza Activity, as of January 31, 2009**

As of January 31, 2009 South Carolina's state influenza activity status is "**Regional**"\*\*. During the week ending January 31, the state Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) percentage increased as did the number of positive rapid tests. This is consistent with data from US virologic surveillance systems and national emergency department chief-complaint surveillance systems. In addition data provided regarding the sales of antivirals show a significant upward trend in the two weeks prior to January 31, 2009.

The South Carolina Laboratory Viral Isolate Network has processed a total of 138 viral isolate specimens this season. Twenty positive viral isolates have been reported thus far. There have been eight (8) influenza A H1, three (3) influenza A H3, one (1) influenza A untyped, and eight (8) influenza B reported.

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) network activity is below baseline in the upstate and above baseline in the midlands and coastal regions of the state. The state ILI percentage is above baseline (2.77%).

Positive rapid antigen tests reports have increased over the last two weeks. During the week ending January 24, 2009, 121 positive rapid antigen tests were reported. The week ending January 31, 2009, 374 positive rapid antigen tests were reported.

Footnote: \*\*Influenza activity ranges from "no activity" to "widespread" activity.

#### **Vaccine Composition Match Information**

The influenza virus strains present in the current 2008-2009 trivalent vaccine are: A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1)-like, A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2)-like, and B/Florida/4/2006-like antigens.

According to CDC's most recent report for week ending January 31:

- The CDC has antigenically characterized 229 influenza viruses [142 influenza A (H1), 35 influenza A (H3) and 52 influenza B viruses] collected by U.S. laboratories since October 1, 2008.
  - All 142 influenza A (H1) viruses are related to the influenza A (H1N1) component of the 2008-09 influenza vaccine (A/Brisbane/59/2007).
  - All 35 influenza A (H3N2) viruses are related to the A (H3N2) vaccine component (A/Brisbane/10/2007).

- Seventeen influenza B viruses tested belong to the B/Yamagata lineage and are related to the vaccine strain (B/Florida/04/2006).
- The remaining 35 viruses belong to the B/Victoria lineage and are not related to the vaccine strain.

## Clinical Recommendations for Treatment of Influenza

Interim recommendations for the selection of antiviral treatment using laboratory test results and viral surveillance data, United States, 2008-09 season‡

Rapid antigen or other laboratory test	Predominant virus(es) in community	Preferred medication(s)	Alternative (combination antiviral treatment)
Not done or negative, but clinical suspicion for influenza	H1N1 or unknown	Zanamivir	Oseltamivir + Rimantadine*
Not done or negative, but clinical suspicion for influenza	H3N2 or B	Oseltamivir OR Zanamivir	None
Positive A	H1N1 or unknown	Zanamivir	Oseltamivir + Rimantadine*
Positive A	H3N2 or B	Oseltamivir OR Zanamivir	None
Positive B	Any	Oseltamivir OR Zanamivir	None
Positive A+B**	H1N1 or unknown	Zanamivir	Oseltamivir + Rimantadine*
Positive A+B**	H3N2 or B	Oseltamivir OR Zanamivir	None

Footnotes:

\*Amantadine may be substituted for rimantadine but has increased risk of adverse events. Human data are lacking to support the benefits of combination antiviral treatment of influenza; however, these interim recommendations are intended to assist clinicians treating patients who might be infected with oseltamivir-resistant influenza A (H1N1) virus.

\*\*Positive A+B indicates a rapid antigen test that cannot distinguish between influenza and influenza B viruses

‡ Influenza antiviral medications used for treatment are most beneficial when initiated within the first two days of illness. Clinicians should consult the package insert of each antiviral medication for specific dosing information, approved indications and ages, contraindications/warnings/precautions, and adverse effects.

## Laboratory Testing for Influenza

### Rapid Antigen Testing and Surveillance

- Commercial rapid diagnostic test kits most commonly use a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab specimen. Results are completed in office in approximately 30 minutes and

indicate the presence of influenza virus. They may also provide serological typing of A, B or A and B, depending on the brand of rapid antigen testing kit used.

- Positive results from rapid tests are reportable in South Carolina, as part of our influenza surveillance system.

#### Influenza cultures and their use in surveillance

- Influenza strain typing is used to determine what is circulating within a community, and is an important component in overall influenza surveillance.
- As always, DHEC will continue to provide influenza culture media to Sentinel Provider practices to detect influenza strains circulating in the community.
- During clusters/outbreaks or upon request to document outbreaks in institutional settings, DHEC may recommend additional cultures to be collected in order to categorize the influenza.
- Positive culture results from all laboratories/healthcare practices are reportable to DHEC.

#### Serological Influenza testing is not recommended for surveillance purposes

- DHEC discourages serological influenza testing for antibodies. To indicate a likely recent influenza infection serological testing requires both an acute and convalescent specimen, demonstrating a four-fold increase in antibody titer.
- The protracted time delay of this serological testing method does not allow for timeliness in laboratory results, clinical management and public health surveillance.

## **Resource Links**

DHEC Health Update on Seasonal Influenza Surveillance

- [www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/han/docs/DHU-flu-2.pdf](http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/han/docs/DHU-flu-2.pdf)

CDC Health Advisory on Interim Recommendations for use of Influenza Antiviral Medication in the setting of Oseltamivir Resistance

- [www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/han/docs/CHA-Rec-1.pdf](http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/han/docs/CHA-Rec-1.pdf)

DHEC Influenza Surveillance Website

- [www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/acute/flu.htm](http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/acute/flu.htm)

CDC Influenza Website

- [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

CDC Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette in Healthcare Settings

- [www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resphgiene.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resphgiene.htm)

CDC Guideline for Isolation Precautions in Hospitals

- [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/guidelines/isolation2007.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/guidelines/isolation2007.pdf)

## **DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements**

Reporting of outbreaks/clusters of influenza, along with positive rapid flu tests, positive viral culture results and influenza deaths (lab confirmed pediatric and adult) are consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2009 List of Reportable Conditions available at:

[http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable\\_conditions.pdf](http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf)

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

## Regional Public Health Offices – 2009

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

### Region 1

**Anderson, Oconee**  
220 McGee Road  
Anderson, SC 29625  
Phone: (864) 260-4358  
Fax: (864) 260-5623  
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

### **Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda**

1736 S. Main Street  
Greenwood, SC 29646  
Phone: 1-888-218-5475  
Fax: (864) 942-3690  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

### Region 2

**Greenville, Pickens**  
PO Box 2507  
200 University Ridge  
Greenville, SC 29602-2507  
Phone: (864) 282-4139  
Fax: (864) 282-4373  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

### **Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union**

PO Box 4217  
151 E. Wood Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217  
Phone: (864) 596-2227, x- 210  
Fax: (864) 596-3443  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

### Region 3

**Chester, Lancaster, York**  
PO Box 817  
1833 Pageland Highway  
Lancaster, SC 29720  
Phone: (803) 286-9948  
Fax: (803) 286-5418  
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

### Region 3 (continued)

**Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland**  
2000 Hampton Street  
Columbia, SC 29204  
Phone: (803) 576-2749  
Fax: (803) 576-2993  
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-554-9915

### Region 4

**Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter**  
PO Box 1628  
105 North Magnolia Street  
Sumter, SC 29150  
Phone: (803) 773-5511  
Fax: (803) 775-9941  
Nights/Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

### **Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion**

145 E. Cheves Street  
Florence, SC 29506  
Phone: (843) 661-4830  
Fax: (843) 661-4859  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

### Region 5

**Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg**  
PO Box 1126  
1550 Carolina Avenue  
Orangeburg, SC 29116  
Phone: (803) 533-7199  
Fax: (803) 533-7134  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

### **Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell**

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40  
Aiken, SC 29801  
Phone: (803) 642-1618  
Fax: (803) 643-8386  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or  
1-800-614-1519

### Region 6

**Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg**  
1931 Industrial Park Road  
Conway, SC 29526-5482  
Phone: (843) 915-8804  
Fax: (843) 365-0085  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

### Region 7

**Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester**  
4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600  
N. Charleston, SC 29405  
Phone: (843) 953-0060  
Fax: (843) 953-0051  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

### Region 8

**Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper**  
219 S. Lemacks Street  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
Phone: (843) 525-7603 , x-108  
Fax: (843) 549-6845  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

### DHEC Bureau of Disease Control Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

1751 Calhoun Street  
Box 101106  
Columbia, SC 29211  
Phone: (803) 898-0861  
Fax: (803) 898-0897  
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902



[www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)

### Categories of Health Alert messages:

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.